

From: [Charlotte Runnels](#)
To: [Christopher Ruhl](#)
Cc: [Greg Fife](#); [Israel Anderson](#); [Philip Dellinger](#); [Ragan Broyles](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: (b) (6) - Bayou Corne, LA
Date: 01/30/2013 04:18 PM

Thanks Chris.

Charlotte Runnels
Office of Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs
Environmental Justice Liaison - Louisiana
Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733
(214) 665-6442 (voice)
(214) 665-2124 (fax)

From: Christopher Ruhl/R6/USEPA/US
To: Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Philip Dellinger/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Israel Anderson/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Ragan Broyles/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, "Greg Fife" <Fife.Greg@epamail.epa.gov>
Date: 01/30/2013 04:15 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: (b) (6) - Bayou Corne, LA

Charlotte- I forwarded this to Greg Fife who is the OSC working the incident.

Chris Ruhl
USEPA Region 6
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
(214) 665-7356 office

From: Charlotte Runnels
To: Philip Dellinger; Israel Anderson
Cc: Christopher Ruhl; Ragan Broyles
Date: 01/30/2013 03:09 PM MST
Subject: Re: Fw: (b) (6) - Bayou Corne, LA

Phil/Chris,

Thanks for your assistance in this matter. Phil will you keep us posted after conversation with OPA?

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From: Philip Dellinger/R6/USEPA/US
To: Christopher Ruhl/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Ragan Broyles/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/30/2013 01:47 PM
Subject: Fw: (b) (6) - Bayou Corne, LA

Chris, I spoke to (b) (6) Friday. The primary issue he was concerned with was oil leaving the sinkhole and entering the surrounding waters, despite Texas Brine's containment efforts. I told him I would get with OPA and have someone contact him - (b) (6) Thanks.

----- Forwarded by Philip Dellinger/R6/USEPA/US on 01/30/2013 01:20 PM -----

From: Philip Dellinger/R6/USEPA/US
To: Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Israel Anderson/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/25/2013 03:22 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: (b) (6) - Bayou Corne, LA

I just got off the phone with him. Have to go to catch a van now but I will meet with OPA staff and discuss his concerns about oil releases from sinkhole. More to come.

From: Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US
To: Philip Dellinger/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Israel Anderson/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/23/2013 04:21 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: (b) (6) Corne, LA

Phil, we think it's a good idea for you to contact (b) (6) regarding his concerns he has with the Bayou Corne Sinkhole. His contact information is as follows: (b) (6)

Give us some feedback on the the conversation.

Thanks

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From: Philip Dellinger/R6/USEPA/US
To: Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Greg Fife/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Israel Anderson/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/18/2013 03:14 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: (b) (6) - Bayou Corne, LA

Our role is pretty weak. The well that dissolved the salt to form the cavern that collapsed is an injection well regulated under the safe drinking water act. The program is delegated in Louisiana to LDNR. Our role is oversight of the injection well program. I would be glad to talk to him next week if needed.

From: Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US
To: Israel Anderson/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Greg Fife/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Philip Dellinger/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/18/2013 02:53 PM
Subject: Fw: (b) (6) Bayou Corne, LA

Greg, thanks for the info.

Phil, see Greg's response, let me know if you have anything to add or what info can we provide to the constituent on EPA's role in the matter.

Thanks

----- Forwarded by Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US on 01/18/2013 02:38 PM -----

From: Greg Fife/R6/USEPA/US
To: Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/18/2013 01:57 PM
Subject: Fw: (b) (6) Bayou Corne, LA

Phil Dellinger has had much more involvement than us. We assisted LDEQ with some air monitoring and keep an eye on things from a distance.

The biggest problem is that it is a big sink hole and does not have any quick fix. Investigations conducted by Texas Brine, found out that it was a salt cavern that they used to mine salt, did collapse and the sink hole developed from that collapse. That caused additional bubbling and surface releases of natural gas to certain areas. Some of those areas are in residential neighborhoods. A lot of air monitoring has been done to make sure that the homes are safe. And Texas Brine, working with LA Department of Natural Resources (the Lead), has installed shallow wells that are removing the natural gas from the ground. And Texas Brine, also under an order from LDNR has installed in home air monitors, and is waiting for more people to sign up.

Texas Brine has complied with many of the things they have been asked/told/ordered to do but they are also fighting a somewhat questionable order in the courts right now. One thing that they have been ordered to do is construct a berm that would, supposedly, prevent salt water from flowing into the swamp. There is disagreement within the government, academia, and response community how wise that order is.

As far as the residents not getting assistance, the ones who decided to evacuate have been receiving payments from Texas Brine since August. They have monitors installed in houses. They have had their homes checked for natural gas by LDEQ. They have had a series of public meetings. The State and Parish have maintained a presence right in the community with open doors to be able to ask questions, express concerns, etc.

There is a science group that has been investigating. The group is made up of scientist from LSU, University of Memphis, USGS, Los Alamos National Laboratories, EPA (Ada), LDNR, and many others. They have released their findings about just how big the sink hole could get, worst case, and it will not eat the town.

There is no quick fix. There is no way of filling in the sink hole or the salt cavern.

----- Forwarded by Greg Fife/R6/USEPA/US on 01/18/2013 10:53 AM -----

From: Chris Petersen/R6/USEPA/US
To: Susan Webster/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Greg Fife/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/18/2013 10:29 AM
Subject: Fw: (b) (6) - Bayou Corne, LA

J. Chris Petersen
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----- Forwarded by Chris Petersen/R6/USEPA/US on 01/18/2013 10:22 AM -----

From: Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US
To: Chris Petersen/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, David McQuiddy/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Israel Anderson/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/18/2013 10:01 AM
Subject: Re: (b) (6) - Bayou Corne, LA

Hey guys, we received a call from a resident in Bayou Corne sinkhole who is complaining about the situation. What is EPA's role if any? How should we respond? Thanks for your assistance.

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From: Israel Anderson/R6/USEPA/US
To: Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/17/2013 04:53 PM
Subject: Re: (b) (6) Bayou Corne, LA

Ragan's folks like Chris Petersen and Wes McQuiddy probably have some information on the sink hole issue.

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From: Charlotte Runnels/R6/USEPA/US

To: Israel Anderson/R6/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/17/2013 04:47 PM
Subject: (b) (6) - Bayou Corne, LA

Received and returned a call to (b) (6) in Bayou Corne, LA who has several concerns with the Bayou Corne sinkhole in Assumption Parish. Wants to know if EPA has a role in the situation. I told him I would get back with him after I get a status of the situation, including EPA's role if any.

Feels like there is some type of cover-up going on and thinks Texas Brine is not being held accountable for anything that's going on.

- nothing is happening and the citizens are not getting any assistance.
- evacuated from homes for 6 months
- Somebody is getting paid off - Texas Brine is getting away with contaminating their
- Area recently received over 18 inches of rain and is concerned about possible contamination of the swamps

Agencies involved

- Conservation Commission
- LDEQ
- LDHH
- LDNR
- Parish Government
-

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